

tions are found reproductions of photographs of the first Board of Health of Mississippi (1877) and of the secretaries since the year 1877. The printing and make-up are excellent.

MAZŮCK P. RAVENEL

Panum on Measles: Observations Made During the Epidemic of Measles on the Faroe Islands in the Year 1846 (A translation from the Danish)—By *Peter Ludwig Panum*. New York: *Delta Omega Society*, 1940. Distributed by *American Public Health Association*. 111 pp. Price, \$2.50.

Here is a model of dignity, restraint, honesty, accuracy and intellectual stimulation; a rare and precious publication; 111 pages of medical treasure, named from the kernel of 20 pages in which the observations of that remarkable physiologist and epidemiologist, Peter Ludwig Panum first revealed his quality in analytical literature.

From the frontispiece portrait of the rugged devotee of truth and logic to the final tabulation of complications causing deaths of measles patients, there is not a superfluous or irrelevant word.

Preventive medicine whether as a science and art or as a cultural and historical discipline of higher education, is indebted to the Delta Omega Society for adding this volume to its series of classical texts in public health.

The editorial direction has been scholarly and sympathetic. The note on the transmission and the introductory chapter by Dr. Doull are sufficient and admirably expressed. The biography of Dr. Panum by his contemporary and colleague Dr. Peterson illuminates the record of a professional career of 40 years following his first official duties as a candidate in medicine and surgery when sent to the Faroe Islands in July, 1846.

Nothing could be more satisfying as foundation, background, and preparation for the analysis and conclusions on

the epidemic than the description given by the observant physician of the characteristics of the Islands, their climate, the people, and their work, habitations, clothing, and eating habits, and the bearing of these on the prevalence of such diseases and causes of death as distinguished these unique communities of hardy folk from those of contemporary Denmark. It is not only to the good fortune that the translators of the several texts of Danish authors have been persons of high cultural attainments, that we can credit the high literary quality of the text. The authors themselves and particularly Dr. Panum used language as an exquisite tool for expression whether in description or analysis. There are gems of brevity and lucidity which are in sharp contrast to the often slovenly and overloaded journalese of health department reports of today in this country.

Part II of the Panum text, pp. 54 to 73, is the treasure trove of the volume, already made familiar to many students of epidemiology and communicable disease control through the teaching of Frost, to whom most appropriately and with universal affection the volume is dedicated.

This little book in its modest brown binding, with its simplest of titles cannot fail to be deeply satisfying to the soul of sanitarians. It should serve as a testament for all disciples of clear seeing and honest thinking.

The three appendices serve a useful purpose as notes and supplementary confirmation of the main text.

Bibliophiles may cavil at certain unorthodox printing practices in the matter of Latin words and phrases, but this is a trifling detail compared with the general excellence of the volume in form and substance.

Like the republished volumes of Budd and Snow, this book will be sought, studied, and appreciated by

physicians and others concerned with preventive medicine and public health as long as reason rules. This is an indispensable book.

HAVEN EMERSON

Fourth Saranac Laboratory Symposium on Silicosis—*Edited by B. E. Kuechle. Wausau, Wis.: Employers' Mutual Liability Insurance Co., 1939. 370 pp. (paper). Price, \$3.00.*

This report is by far the most extensive of the four covering as many symposia on silicosis held at Saranac Lake, 1934, 1935, 1937, and 1939. It comprises 36 papers presented June 19 to 23, 1939. The Chairman, Dr. Leroy U. Gardner, pointed out that this symposium, was a radical departure from previous ones in that basic facts pertaining to etiology, pathology, roentgenology, diagnosis and prevention, which previously constituted the entire subject matter, were presented in abbreviated form for the first day's program, to accomplish which some of the speakers prepared comprehensive outlines of their subjects. Many of the corresponding papers, however, appear to be unabridged. The next three days dealt with conditions in specific industries, beginning with those which have no particular dust hazards, and passing in succession through those involving the use of increasing quantities of silica. Thus, mining in dolomite, the gypsum, cement, granite, Ontario gold mining, and the foundry dust problems come in for major attention. The asbestos industry has been purposely omitted for lack of time and because experience is still limited. The last papers are devoted to the subjects of prevention, control, and compensation.

Most subjects of long standing interest have been brought up to date in keeping with new knowledge and opinions. A brief summary is given of the discussions which follow most of the papers, from which it is evident that,

while majority agreement is assuming form on many mooted questions, there is still division of opinion on many others. A symposium of this sort presents unequalled opportunity for announcing new observations, also of more closely defining the terms and expressions commonly used. The reviewer is moved to ask whether the expression "tuberculosis positive" should not be unequivocally defined? Is it based on clinical, pathological, and x-ray findings or upon actual demonstration of the presence of the tuberculosis organism itself? Has the disability been due to the tuberculous element or was tuberculosis simply found as a terminal affair, a "clean-up squad" in a previous condition of extreme pathology of other types, including non-tuberculous infection?

Space does not permit a listing of the titles of the papers presented, which, however, fall under the general groupings above mentioned. As an Appendix there is included the "Physical Examination of Industrial Workers," recently promulgated by the Industrial Commission of Wisconsin. There were many discussants including some from abroad, and it may be said that an outstanding representation of North American specialists and practical men in the field were present and took part.

The volume contains a number of illustrations and many tables and charts. It represents American and Canadian observations in which the influence of many types of industries enter the picture in contrast to reports from foreign sources, which, while extensive and very complete in themselves, have usually been confined to certain industries or localities.

A fairly comprehensive subject index is included but lacks certain headings, e.g., "prognosis" and "progression of silicosis." Inasmuch as a number of the papers carry references, an author index might well have been added and